

## ***Teen Driving Task Force***

Minutes of September 24, 2012 – 10:00 AM Meeting  
RedRossa Italian Grille, 808 West Sioux Avenue, Pierre SD

**Task Force Members Present:** Major Randy Hartley, Cindy Gerber, Nancy Allard, Senator Craig Tieszen, Staci Eggert, John Foster, Dr. Susan Randall, Representative Peggy Gibson

**Task Force Members Excused:** Bob Clark, Mark Swendsen, Steve Haney, Kenneth Franks

**Support Staff Present:** Lee Axdahl

**DPS Staff Present:** DPS Secretary Trevor Jones

**Others Present:** Dave Renli, Eric Majeres, Dwayne LaFave, Larry Weiss, Deedra Gesinger, Kara Semmler, Tatum Richards, Tristan Chasing Hawk, Joslynn Claven, Betsy Rice, Jennifer Kline, Chet Brokaw, Melanie Castellano-Swanson, JoAnn Castellano.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Task Force was called to order by Chairperson Tieszen.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Roll was not called as all participants had signed into the meeting.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson called for approval of minutes.

**Motion:** Minutes be approved as submitted.

**Moved:** Nancy Allard  
**Second:** Representative Gibson  
**Disposition:** Unanimous Aye

### 4. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION OF DRIVER EDUCATION HISTORY/ISSUES

Deedra Gesinger from the South Dakota Department of Education made a presentation on the history of Driver Education from the DOE perspective.

Ms. Gesinger stated that the department has no jurisdiction over private individuals serving as instructors and was unsure how that process works. DOE certifies teachers serving as instructors with an endorsement to their teaching certificate and this is renewed every five years.

Gibson asked if there is access to old program documents and Gesinger doubted they were readily available. There are no current materials or curriculum supplied by DOE.

Senator Tieszen asked the Task Force how they wanted to see this issue evolve. Randall noted the difference between standards and core curriculum. Hartley stated that the group doesn't even know what tools are "out there"

General task force consensus is that an attempt should be made to provide driver education to teen drivers with a unified curriculum. But this will require a revamping of the certification

program, standards would have to be established, cost issues will need to be addressed, and instructors would need to follow certain protocols. In summary, South Dakota shouldn't continue the status quo for driver education.

Senator Tieszen indicates that he will work on this issue legislatively by creating a Driver Education Coordinator position within the Department of Public Safety.

## 5. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Brief discussion of how the Task Force should present its findings to the legislature was led by Chairperson Tieszen.

It was suggested without objection that a joint transportation committee meeting be held to make the presentation early in the 2013 session. Senator Tieszen suggested that he could contact the chairs of the House and Senate to brief them about this joint meeting.

Hearing no objection, this will be the method to deliver the report of the group.

## 6. LUNCH

## 7. TESTIMONY FROM THE PUBLIC

Jennifer Kline of South Dakota Voices for Children introduced three students from its Youth Advisory Council. Tristan Chasing Hawk, Tatum Richards, and Joslynn Claven discussed their participation in teen driving issues and peer discussion. All three agree that Driver Education would be beneficial for young drivers. They also discussed informal polling of the council on various roadway safety issues where strong support was shown for no wireless devices and strong opposition for restricting extra passengers during permit phases.

Melanie Swanson and JoAnn Castellano of Forest Lake, Minnesota, attended the meeting to tell the story of their son (Swanson) and grandson (Castellano) who was killed in a Christmas Eve 2011 crash by a 15 year old South Dakota driver. The young South Dakota driver apparently fell asleep at the wheel after driving for many hours. The young driver received 1 year of probation. The mother and grandmother urged the task force to make serious recommendations to improve teen driving safety in South Dakota.

## 8. DPS/LTF DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Secretary Trevor Jones of the Department of Public Safety addressed the Task Force about the merit and future of a number of legislative ideas they had drafted. The Legislative Task Force (LTF) cannot offer an opinion on the bills until after final versions have been drafted.

## 9. FINALIZE RECOMMENDATIONS ON LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Lee Axdahl distributed a draft report document to the group. The document, which will be signed by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, will contain background information and both legislative and non-legislative priorities of the Task Force.

There was significant discussion about the initial draft document and a final draft will be ready for distribution to the task force for comment in a matter of weeks.

Following a final comment period, the report will be finalized and distributed by Task Force leadership as they determine to be appropriate with the language of HB1221 from the Eighty-Fifth Legislative Assembly.

10. TIMELINE OF FINAL STEPS AND NEXT MEETING DISCUSSION

Task Force members discussed the final steps (including agenda item nine outlined above) and determined that a “next” meeting will not be immediately scheduled unless it is required. The Task Force and concerned parties will receive email updates as the report process evolves.

11. ADJOURN

There was no formal motion to adjourn and meeting concluded.

Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Axdahl', written in a cursive style.

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Lee Axdahl – Department of Public Safety